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Front Page  
Edit Page  
Other Page

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# Profile: Allen W. Dulles

By Ron Hollander

When Allen Welsh Dulles was 8 years old he wrote a 31-page history of the Boer War which concluded: "I hope the Boers win this war because the Boers are in the right and the British in the wrong."

He explained to relatives who later had his treatise published that he used a small "b" because he didn't like the British and felt that a small letter would show it. Now 71, Dulles is still concerned with world problems and with who is in the right and who in the wrong. In Jackson, Miss., at President Johnson's personal request, Dulles will coordinate the search for three missing civil rights workers and will confer with officials on civil rights and law enforcement problems in the Magnolia State.



Allen W. Dulles

Dulles' involvement in world problems is almost hereditary. The son of a Watertown, N.Y., Presbyterian minister, Dulles had an uncle and grandfather who were secretaries of state and a great-uncle who was an envoy to Britain under Rutherford B. Hayes. Summers were frequently spent at the family home in Gold Spring Harbor, where Dulles, his sister, John Foster, destined to become Secretary of State, and Norman Thomas, later leader of the presidential candidate of the Socialist Party, were born.

"The boys would jump off the raft on the beach, swim to a float in the middle of the harbor and sit in the sun talking politics," a friend of the town recalls.

The pipe-smoking Allen Dulles graduated from Princeton and Beta Kappa in 1914. He joined the Diplomatic Service and later the State Department, serving as head of Near Eastern affairs from 1922 to 1926. Having obtained a law degree in his spare time at George Washington University, Dulles re-

signed in 1926 and joined the firm of Sullivan & Cromwell in New York, remaining in private practice until World War II.

He spent the war in the Office of Strategic Services in Switzerland where he organized the forerunner of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). Dulles' undercover agents obtained more than 2,600 documents from the German Foreign Office. They also gave him advance notice of the plot to assassinate Hitler. Dulles urged, but never received, Allied support for the abortive plot.

Through his agents, Dulles also learned that the German armies in Italy were eager to surrender in the last weeks of the war. He negotiated the surrender of 1,000,000 German soldiers a week before the final surrender at Rheims.

Dulles became director of the CIA in 1953 after three years as deputy director. A conservative dresser, fond of wide ties and mystery stories, Dulles was characterized by a colleague during this time as "possessing an enormous patience."

Controversy rose around the white-haired master spy in 1960 over his refusal to divulge what information a U-2 flight was seeking when it was shot down over Russia. But this was only a prelude to criticism he received after the Bay of Pigs fiasco in Cuba.

Dulles and the CIA were sharply criticized for their intelligence reports which apparently had greatly underestimated Castro's preparedness and overestimated the Cubans' willingness to rise up against him. Although Dulles had denied rumors that he would resign, in September, 1961, President Kennedy announced that John A. McCone would succeed Dulles as director of the CIA.

A golfer in the low 90s who is a member of the Washington Strangers' brand, Dulles spoke at the 50th anniversary of the Gold Spring Harbor Library last June. Dulles said that he would work for the Kennedy administration. He said most battles were fought on Russian fronts and he urged economic sanctions as best long-range weapon against Communism. On Cuba Dulles said he didn't believe in anything that could be done by intervention.

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